the Picasa web album or a Flickr album link in a browser or another application in the recipient's device. For a locally stored album or other content such as document, the album or the document can be sent to the recipient's social network email address.

[0069] RG#3 corresponds to a single finger swipe gesture made between information in a web browser, e.g. a hyperlink, and one or more photos in which at least one contact is selected. The result of this gesture is to apply a "share content link" with the or each selected contact in Facebook and LinkedIn, the request resulting in the selected information being shared with them. FIG. **10** illustrates this situation, with a hyperlink from a web browser being shared with two contacts selected from the photo viewer **130**. As another example, the link may be shared via twitter with each recipient's twitter id marked with the "@" tag.

[0070] RG#4 corresponds to a double finger swipe gesture made in a single or over multiple photo(s) between at least two contacts. The result of this gesture is to send a "friend recommendation" request in Facebook or a "network recommendation" request in LinkedIn. FIG. **11** illustrates this situation.

[0071] RG#5 corresponds to a pinch-out gesture made over a single contact in a photo. The result of this gesture is to open a text box prompting user-entry of a message which is subsequently posted to either the selected contact's wall, in Facebook, or to their inbox in LinkedIn. As another example, this may send a tweet with each recipient's twitter id marked with the "@" tag

[0072] RG#6 corresponds to an arrow-shaped gesture made over a single contact in a photo. The result of this gesture is to apply a 'poke' function to the contact on Facebook. There is currently no equivalent in LinkedIn.

[0073] Referring to FIG. **12**, there will now be described the main operating steps performed by the gesture-detection and interface modules **132**, **134**. In a first step **12.1** the modules are run, usually in response to the photo viewer **130** being run on the terminal **100**. In step **12.2** the gesture-detection module **132** detects inputted user gestures; in step **12.3** it compares inputted user gestures with the reference gestures RG#1-RG#6 and, in step **12.4** identifies a match. In step **12.5** the social network function associated with the matched reference gesture is identified. In step **12.6** the tagged contacts covered by the gesture are identified. Steps **12.5** and **12.6** can take place in any order or simultaneously. In step **12.7** the social network application to which the identified function is to be applied is selected; this can take into account the aforementioned contextual data. In step **12.8** the identified function is communicated and applied to the relevant social network application(s) in respect of the identified contact(s). This takes place automatically and is controlled by the interface **134**.

[0074] The gesture-detection and interface modules **132**, **134** and the tagged contact list **133** can be combined in a single application for installation on the terminal **100** and configured to interact with the photo viewer **130** which may be a standard, already present, application or a separate proprietary application such as Picasa, which provide plug-in and extension support. Applications with a plug-in architecture for third-party developers can be extended to have the discussed gesture support. For example, this feature can be added to browsers such as Firefox, Chrome via extensions/plug-ins so that the feature will get activated while viewing Picasa web albums or while viewing Facebook's photo viewer. Alternatively, all modules, including the photo viewer **130** can be provided as a single application for installation and running on the terminal **100**.

[0075] The preferred embodiment described herein provides a convenient and intuitive way for users to interact with external social networks and perform many of the known functions provided by said networks using gestural commands at the local terminal **100**. Selection of social network functions and contacts to which they are to be applied is made locally and therefore reduces the amount of data required to be transferred over the Internet when browsing directly with the external social network application.

[0076] It will be appreciated that the above described embodiments are purely illustrative and are not limiting on the scope of the invention. Other variations and modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art upon reading the present application.

[0077] Moreover, the disclosure of the present application should be understood to include any novel features or any novel combination of features either explicitly or implicitly disclosed herein or any generalization thereof and during the prosecution of the present application or of any application derived therefrom, new claims may be formulated to cover any such features and/or combination of such features.

1-22. (canceled)

23. Apparatus, the apparatus having at least one processor and at least one memory having computer-readable code stored thereon which when executed controls the at least one processor:

to receive through a user interface a user gesture made in relation to one or more displayed digital photographs, the or each photograph having one or more faces each with a tag identifying a contact associated with the face in the photograph;

to identify locally a predefined social network function corresponding to said received user gesture and a tagged contact or contacts indicated by said gesture; and

to communicate the locally-identified function to an external social network application so as to apply thereat said function in relation to the selected contact or contacts.

24. Apparatus according to claim **23**, in which the computer-readable code when executed controls the at least one processor to identify, from the received user gesture, correspondence with one of a plurality of locally-stored reference gestures each of which is associated with a respective different social network function for being applied at an external social network.

25. Apparatus according to claim **23**, wherein the computer-readable code when executed controls the at least one processor to store, for the or each tagged contact, associated identification data to enable the communicating means to uniquely identify a selected contact or contacts to an external social network application where they have a presence.

26. Apparatus according to claim **25**, wherein the contact list is configured to store, for the or each tagged contact, identification data for a plurality of different external social network applications where the contact has a presence.

27. Apparatus according to claim **26**, wherein the computer-readable code when executed controls the at least one processor to select a subset of the different social network applications with which to apply the social network function dependent on one or more selection rule(s) applicable to at least one of the social network applications.